

become 26, and so on through previous claim number 35, which will become claim 34. The renumbering is necessary because the numeral 19 was inadvertently skipped when originally numbering the claims. References to claim numbers in the discussion that follows, including in the Marked-Up Versions of Rewritten Claims in Exhibit A, are to the newly renumbered claims and not the claims as originally numbered.

II. Rewritten Claims

The following claims have been rewritten pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(c). Marked-up versions of each of the rewritten claims showing all the changes relative to the previous versions are annexed hereto as Exhibit A.

1. (Amended) A method of making reinforced paperboard cartons comprising the steps of:

(a) advancing a web of paperboard along a path, the web of paperboard having a width;

(b) progressively applying and adhering at least one ribbon of reinforcing material to the advancing web of paperboard, the ribbon having a width less than the width of the web of paperboard;

(c) cutting the web of paperboard to form carton blanks having panel portions; and

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(d) forming the carton blanks into cartons for receiving articles, the ribbon of reinforcing material providing reinforcement in selected panel portions of the cartons.

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5. (Amended) A method of making reinforced paperboard cartons as claimed in claim 4 and wherein the web of paperboard has opposed edge portions and wherein at least one of the plurality of ribbons of reinforcing material is applied and adhered along each edge portion of the web of paperboard.

6. (Amended) A method of making reinforced paperboard cartons as claimed in claim 4 and wherein step (b) further comprises applying and adhering a first ribbon of reinforcing material to said web of paperboard and applying and adhering a second ribbon of reinforcing material to the first ribbon of reinforcing material to form a double thickness of reinforcing material on the web.

7. (Amended) A method of making reinforced paperboard cartons as claimed in claim 4 and wherein the web of paperboard has opposed edges and wherein at least one of the ribbons of reinforcing material is applied and adhered intermediate the opposed edges of the web.

8. (Amended) A method of making reinforced paperboard cartons as claimed in claim 1 and where in step (b) the at least one ribbon of reinforcing material is applied and adhered at a predetermined location across the width of the paperboard web to provide reinforcement only in a selected panel portion of the cartons formed in step (d).

9. (Amended) A method of making reinforced paperboard cartons as claimed in claim 1 and further comprising the step of printing indicia on the at least one ribbon of reinforcing material, the indicia being visible from the inside of cartons formed in step (d).

10. (Amended) A method of making reinforced paperboard cartons as claimed in claim 9 and wherein the indicia is printed on the at least one ribbon of reinforcing material before the ribbon is applied and adhered to the web of paperboard in step (b).

25. (Amended) A method of making paperboard carton blanks comprising the steps of:

(a) advancing a web of paperboard along a path, the web of paperboard having a width;

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(b) laminating a ribbon of reinforcing material to the advancing web of paperboard, the ribbon having a width less than the width of the web of paperboard and being positioned at a predetermined location on the web of paperboard; and

(c) cutting the web of paperboard and laminated ribbon into carton blanks of a predetermined size and configuration, the carton blanks defining panel portions and the laminated ribbon forming a layer of reinforcement in at least one panel portion of each of the carton blanks.

26. (Amended) A method of making paperboard carton blanks as claimed in claim 25 and where in step (b) the ribbon of reinforcing material is a ribbon of paperboard.

27. (Amended) A method of making paperboard carton blanks as claimed in claim 26 and wherein the ribbon of paperboard is paperboard trim.

28. (Amended) A method of making paperboard carton blanks as claimed in claim 26 and wherein the ribbon of paperboard is paperboard cull.

29. (Amended) A method of making paperboard carton blanks as claimed in claim 25 and wherein step (b) comprises advancing

the ribbon of reinforcing material along a path, applying adhesive to the ribbon of reinforcing material, and bringing the ribbon into contact with the web to adhere the ribbon to the web.

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30. (Amended) A method of making paperboard carton blanks as claimed in claim 25 and wherein step (b) comprises laminating more than one ribbon of reinforcing material to the advancing web of paperboard, each ribbon having a width less than the width of the web of paperboard and being positioned at respective predetermined locations on the web of paperboard to provide reinforcement in selected panel portions of the blank.

31. (Amended) A method of making paperboard carton blanks as claimed in claim 30 and wherein the web of paperboard has opposed edges and wherein at least one of the ribbons of reinforcing material is applied along an edge of the web of paperboard.

32. (Amended) A method of making paperboard carton blanks as claimed in claim 30 and wherein the web of paperboard has opposed edges and wherein at least one of the ribbons of reinforcing material is applied at a location intermediate the edges of the web of paperboard.

33. (Amended) A method of making paperboard carton blanks as claimed in claim 30 and wherein at least one of the ribbons of reinforcing material is applied atop another one of the ribbons of reinforcing material to form multiple layers of reinforcing material on said web of paperboard.

34. (Amended) A paperboard carton blank made by the process of claim 25.

REMARKS

I. Claim Objections

Claim 19 was initially objected to as being absent from the record. Upon review of the file, the undersigned discovered that the numeral 19 was inadvertently skipped when numbering claims. As a result, pending claims 26-35 were affected in that they should have been claims 25-34. Accordingly, old claim numbers 26-35 have now been renumbered as claims 25-34 and each of these claims has been amended where needed to reflect the correct dependency on preceding claims. It is therefore believed that the initial objection in paragraph 2 of the amendment is new moot.